

Application No. 09/538,483
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated September 22, 2004
Response to the Office Action dated March 23, 2004

REMARKS

Claim 1 – 20 remain pending in the present application. The objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action identified some minor typographical errors in the specification. The specification has been amended as suggested in the Office Action.

The Drawings

Figure 1 was objected to for failing to identify reference number 1021, described on page 3, line 19 of the specification. Figure 1 has been amended to add reference number 1021 to identify the mirror. A replacement corrected Formal drawing for Figure 1 is attached.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112

Claims 1, 8, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for the alleged ambiguity in referring to “signals” in the image generation unit, when the amendment unit only amends a single “signal.” The claims were amended to clarify the signals. As amended, the claims meet all the requirements under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

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The Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 18 – 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over **Shu et al.** (USP 5,838,885). Claims 2, 3, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Shu**, in view of **Hibi** (USP 5,592,311). Claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Shu**, **Hibi**, and further in view of **Ancin** (USP 5,956,468). Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Shu**, **Hibi**, and further in view of **Yoshino et al.** (USP 6,141,462). Claims 6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Shu**, **Hibi**, and further in view of **Ikeda et al.** (USP 5,270,807). Claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Shu**, **Hibi**, and further in view of **Hattori et al.** (USP 5,212,560).

The Office Action alleged that the teachings of **Shu** regarding the half-toning operation uses image data for multiple color components. The Office Action alleged that “the half-tone operation is equivalent to the amended signal for generation of a monochrome image in claim 1, and the dependence between color components is equivalent to use of image data from another monochrome image in claim 1.”

The Applicant respectfully disagrees. **Shu** does not at all address any smoothing technology for generating a multi-color image. The half-toning operation determines binary values (C_B , M_B , and Y_B) for the different color components. This has nothing to do with any smoothing technique addressed in the present application.

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The claims were amended to clarify the exact nature of the different signals (amended signals) generated by the amendment unit of the present invention. It should be emphasized that each amended signal is determined based on information about the monochrome image for one color, in addition to information about the monochrome image of another color. The half-toning operation disclosures in the primary reference to **Shu** are not relevant to the present claimed features, as amended. For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Replacement Sheet of Drawings (Figure 1)

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